stages of progress. The improvement being a continuous process, no firm date for completion can be given at this stage.

(b) The present progress of the works is as under:

(i)	Widening of formation	—	143.07 km
(ii)	Surfacing	—	54.30 km

(c) An amount of Rs. 39.82 crore has been spent so far on the improvement works and the allocation for the year 2001-2002 is Rs. 9.04 crore.

Golden Quadrilateral project

2720. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has decided to issue bonds to raise money for funding Prime Minister's North-South and East-West corridor highways proposal;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any assessment regarding the amount required for this project; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An estimated amount of Rs. 54,000 crore is required for this project.

(c) Golden Quadrilateral is targeted for completion by December 2003 and the North-South and East-West corridors by December 2007.

Facilities on NH-8

2721. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of lack of facilities such as lighting and road carpeting on NH-8 (National Highway 8) between Delhi and Jaipur resulting in a number of fatal accidents daily;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been made to identify the deficiency in road facilities on NH-8; and

(c) if so, what safety measures have been taken by Government to make the Delhi-Jaipur stretch of the highways safe and accident free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) Delhi-Jaipur

highway is a 4-lane divided carriageway with properly designed curves and road junctions, proper road signs and markings, cattle crossings, trucks and bus lay byes etc. and therefore, inherently safe. In addition, a number of other safety measures have been taken such as highway patrolling, ambulance and crane services, etc. The road surface is good and road lighting is not provided on highways because vehicles move under their own lights.

Damage to Highways in Orissa due to floods

2722. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the National Highways in Orissa have been damaged due to rains and floods;

(b) if so, the steps taken to verify poor quality of construction and the action to be initiated against the contractors; and

(c) by when these NHs would be repaired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir. National Highways 200,201,215,6,23,42,5 and 5A were affected in some stretches by recent incessant heavy rains and floods.

(b) Damages have occurred due to heavy rains and floods. Therefore initiating action against contractors does not arise.

(c) Immediate restoration works have been completed.

National Highways Development Projects

2723. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rs. 60,000 crore Highway Development Project is being funded through the traditional combination of budgetary support, multilateral assistance, allocation from the cess pool and private participation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that several options have been kept open for private investors to spur investment in this sector; and

(c) if so, the details of the Highways Projects undergoing and proposed to be undertaken for execution by attracting private investment and by budgetary support, Separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Government has undertaken National Highway Development Project (NHDP) estimated to cost Rs. 54,000 crore